



Public Notice

**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence**

**Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833**

Public Notice No.

P-2836

Public Notice Date

October 24, 2012

Expiration Date

November 14, 2012

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS- 2012-582 (P-2836)

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: Chuck Crocker

APPLICANT: Union Pacific Railroad Company, Attn: Gary Bates, 1400 Douglas Street, Stop 0910, Omaha, NE 68179

AGENT: Olsson Associates, 2111 South 67th Street, Omaha, NE 68106 Attention: Brian Osborn

LOCATION: The project area is located in Sections 17, 19, 20 and 30, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, Jackson County, Illinois.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant seeks authorization to fill approximately 6.937 acres of jurisdictional wetlands to construct a double track from Chap to Grimsby, Jackson County, Illinois. The purpose of the project is to provide an opportunity for trains traveling in opposite directions to pass safely and efficiently. The project includes the construction of an access road parallel to the proposed double track to provide access for necessary maintenance and safety inspections. The wetland impacts include deciduous broadleaf forest, deciduous broadleaf shrub-shrub forest, and lower perennial riverine. The proposed project study area included the railroad right of way, cultivated farmland and undeveloped, forest land in the Shawnee National Forest. The applicant proposes purchasing wetland credits from an approved Wetland Mitigation Bank for the wetland impact.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See Attachments 1 and 2.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Chuck Crocker Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8584. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to Robert.C.Crocker@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: This public notice also provides documentation to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notice/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below.

Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

A copy of all written comments should also be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

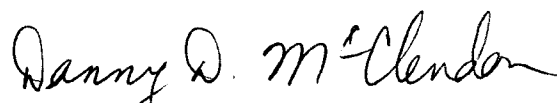
ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed project is within the range of the following endangered species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), and Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirynchus albus*). The applicant will be required to coordinate the tree clearing operation to minimize impacts to the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed would not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely

affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the Archaeological Survey furnished by the Applicant, the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.



DANNY D. MCCLENDON
Chief, Regulatory Branch

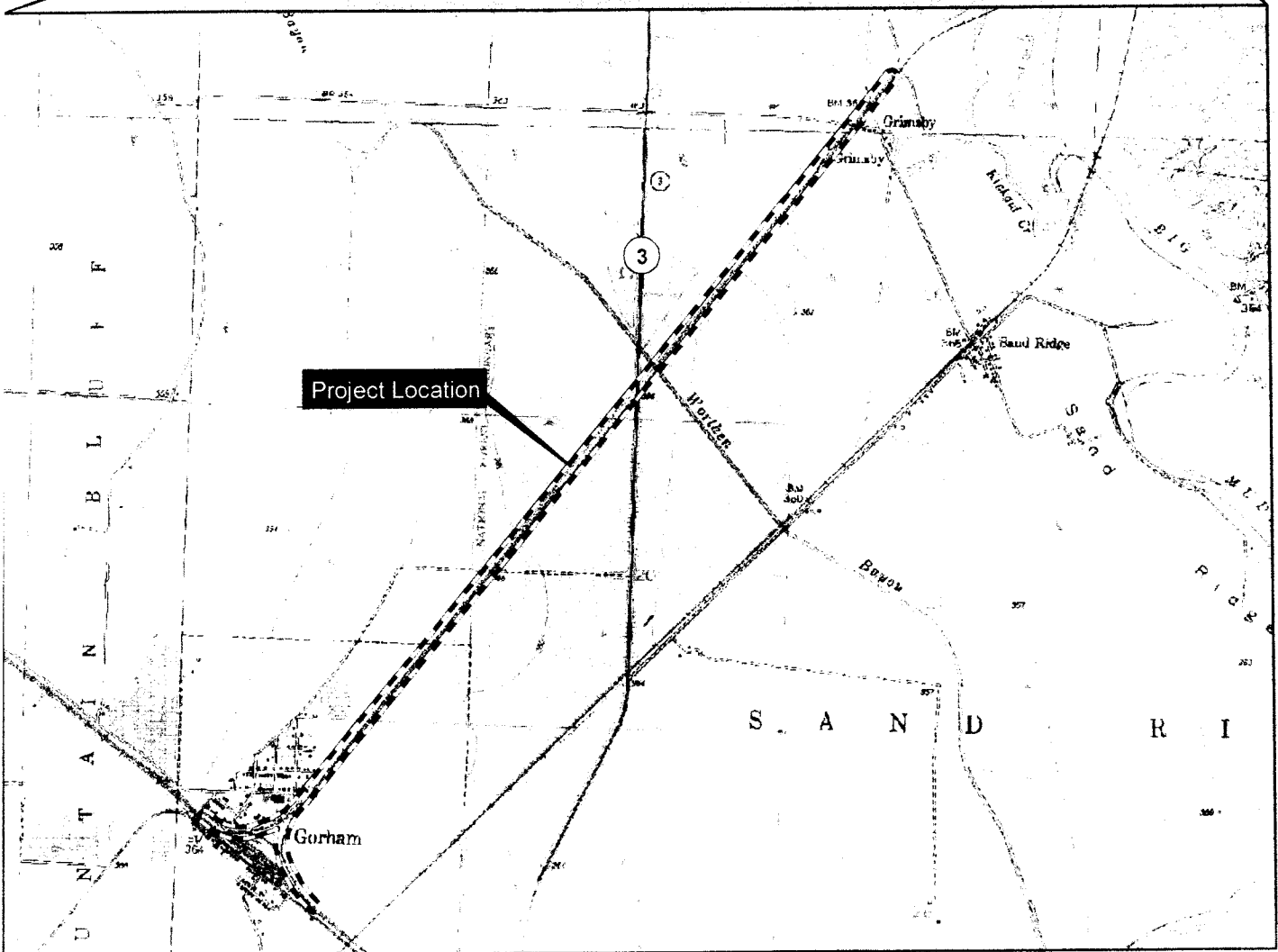
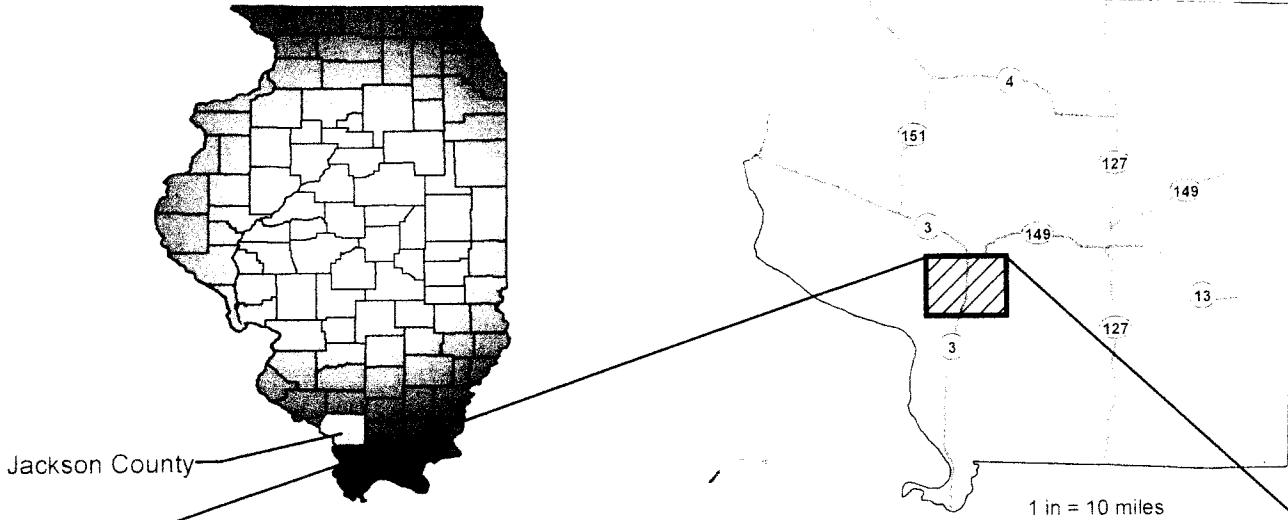
Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

ILLINOIS

Jackson County



Data Source: USGS Topographic Image, Jackson County Mosaic

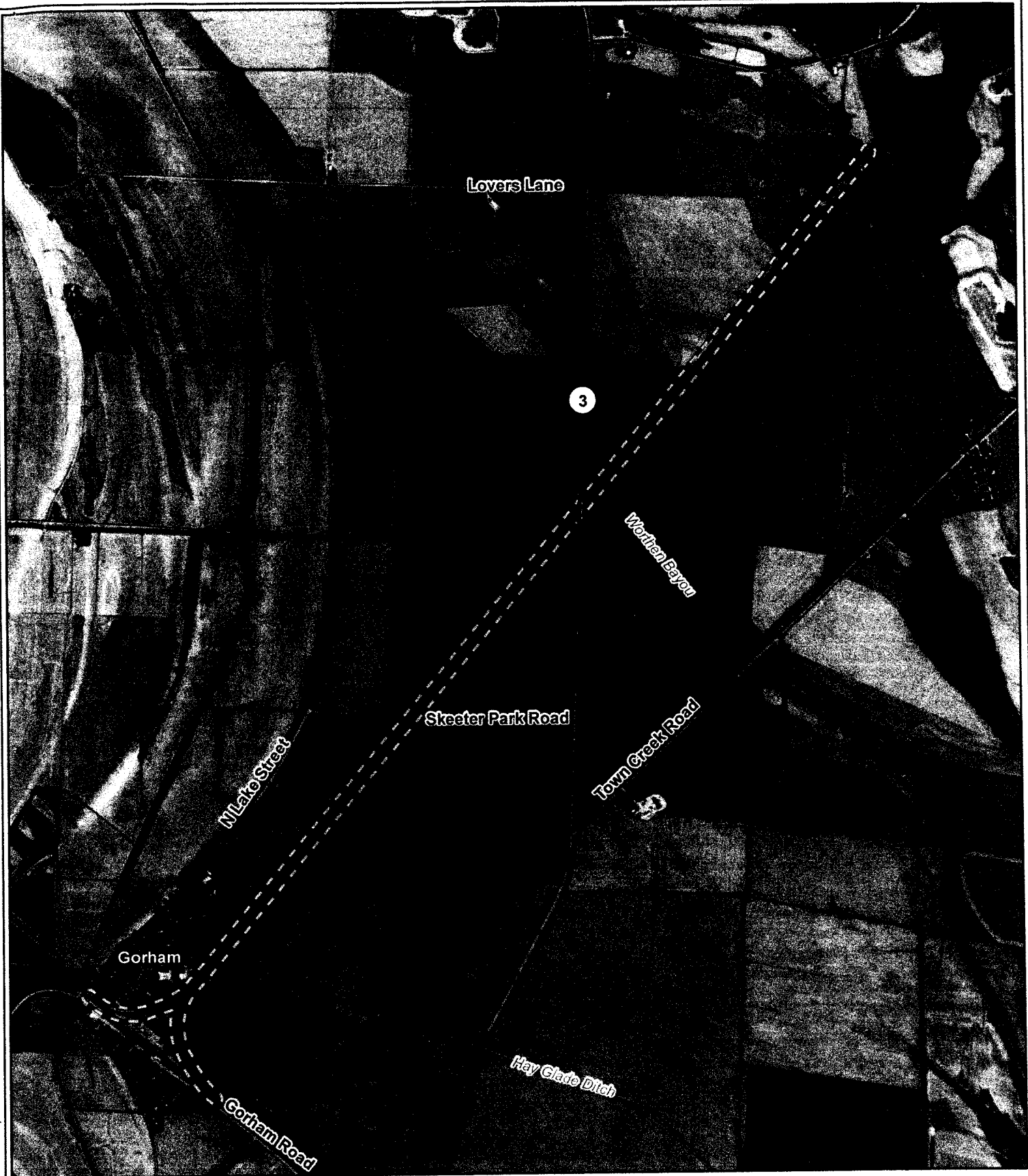
Chap to Grimsby
Mt. Vernon Subdivision
Union Pacific Railroad Co.
Jackson County, IL

Location Map
Figure 1

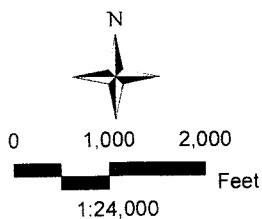
OLSSON
ASSOCIATES






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Data Source: (c) 2012 Microsoft Corporation and its data suppliers
ISGS Illinois Streams



Legend

-  Study Area
-  State Highway
-  ISGS Illinois Streams

**Chap to Grimsby
Mt. Vernon Subdivision**
Union Pacific Railroad Co.
Jackson County, IL

Site Map
Figure 2